

## 6th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

# Shawn Rolland

*Serving Neighborhoods in Wauwatosa,  
West Allis, and Milwaukee's Westside*



**MILWAUKEE  
COUNTY**

### Committee Assignments

American Rescue Plan Act Task Force,  
Co-Chair

Economic and Community  
Development, Chair

Health Equity, Human Needs &  
Strategic Planning, Vice Chair

Finance Committee

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### Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Fall 2021

When I ran for the county board to "Make District 6 Even Better," many of you told me to "fix the parks" and "fix the roads." In 2021, we started fixing the parks and fixing the roads. West Allis's Rainbow Park has a brand-new playground on the way, and in Tosa, Underwood Creek Parkway near Bluemound is now a smooth stretch (a year ahead of schedule, thanks to our advocacy!) – with new speed humps to help prevent speeding and reckless driving.



We also helped neighbors in need. On the Finance Committee, I worked to carefully allocate federal CARES Act dollars, providing millions to help our small businesses recover and help prevent more than 8,000 county families from being evicted (including 500+ in our area).

In 2022, we can make District 6 and Milwaukee County even better. I was honored to be asked to serve as Co-Chair of Milwaukee County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Task Force. I'm hopeful about our ability to use \$183.6 million in federal ARPA funding to repair our county's aging parks and infrastructure, drive economic growth, prevent evictions and homelessness, improve health outcomes and reduce costs.

This has been a challenging year. For some, it's been the hardest year imaginable. My belief is that better days are coming. Thank you for trusting me to serve as your county supervisor. As we head deeper into fall, I hope that you can gather safely with loved ones for Thanksgiving and the holiday season to come.

Sincerely,

**Shawn Rolland**  
**Milwaukee County Supervisor – District 6**

## Milwaukee County Needs Your Voice

Why is Milwaukee County so important to Wisconsin? Our county has more residents than 40 other Wisconsin counties, combined. And our county's economic output is larger than 49 other Wisconsin counties, combined! Wisconsin cannot thrive without Milwaukee County.

There is a new proposal to strengthen Milwaukee County that has bipartisan support. It's backed by:

- Business leaders like the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC)
- Philanthropic leaders like the Greater Milwaukee Committee
- County leaders like Sheriff Earnell Lucas and County Executive David Crowley
- Statewide leaders like Governor Tony Evers and Wisconsin Counties Association Executive Director Mark O'Connell

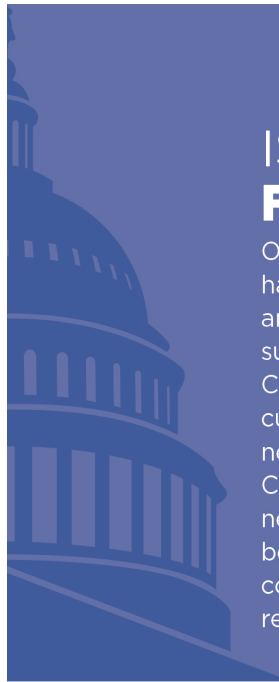
Each has his or her reason to support it – and I agree with all of them. A “local option sales tax” could enable Milwaukee County to:

- Provide property tax relief
- Maintain our parks and parkways, cultural institutions, and transit options
- Offer competitive pay to staff and our first responders

If this proposal does not pass soon, our county will face dire consequences. By the year 2027, Milwaukee County will have \$0 to spend on parks, public transportation, or safety. This is not hyperbole. Look around and you'll see challenges:

- We're struggling to recruit and retain correctional officers in our jails due to low pay
- The same is true for court clerks, sheriff deputies, lifeguards, park staff, golf course groundskeepers, bus drivers, trades workers, and more.
- We have \$500M in deferred maintenance!

That's why I am urging you to reach out to your state legislators and tell them to support a local option sales tax. Your voice is critical.



## IS MILWAUKEE COUNTY FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE?

Over the past decade, Milwaukee County has demonstrated its fiscal responsibility and utilized every tool available to make substantial changes to address the County's budget crisis. Despite these major cuts and efficiencies, there is a critical need to increase funding for Milwaukee County and its municipalities. Without a new source of revenue, the County will not be able to maintain its facilities, preserve community assets and provide the services residents have come to expect.

### MANAGING OVERHEAD:

Reducing office space by 1.6M sq. ft., increasing energy efficiency and streamlining operations

SAVING  
**\$9.1M**

### REDUCING STAFF:

Reducing size of government, from around 5,500 employees to approximately 4,500

SAVING  
**\$116.5M**

### DEFERRING MAINTENANCE:

Deferring building and road repair or replacement projects

SAVING  
**\$34.7M**

### RESTRUCTURING OPEB:

Restructuring Other Post Employment Benefits

SAVING  
**\$40.4M**

### SALARY STEP FREEZES:

Freezing salaries

SAVING  
**\$55.4M**

### RESTRUCTURING WORKER'S COMPENSATION BENEFITS:

SAVING  
**\$3M**

### REQUIRING EMPLOYEE HEALTH & PENSION CONTRIBUTION:

Requiring contribution of about 6% of salary

SAVING  
**\$20.9M**



## Seeking Your ARPA Ideas To Make Milwaukee County Even Better

I am incredibly proud to be co-chair of Milwaukee County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Task Force. Over the coming months, our group will recommend how the Milwaukee County Board should allocate \$183.6 million in federal funds.

My pledge to you is to do all I can to ensure these funds are invested strategically – not politically – to make Milwaukee County an even better place to live, work and play. But I need your help and your ideas.

I want your insights. How should we:

- Address our backlog of deferred maintenance in facilities, parks and parkways
- Invest in technology and service delivery to reduce costs and generate revenue
- Provide one-time assistance for individuals and businesses impacted by the pandemic
- Invest upstream to reduce health disparities
- Prevent the spread and impact of COVID-19, and more

Please visit [County.Milwaukee.gov/ARPA.Taskforce](https://County.Milwaukee.gov/ARPA.Taskforce) to share your ideas.

These ARPA funds will not solve the extreme fiscal challenges faced by the county. We will not be able to fund all or even most of the ideas we will receive from residents.

However, there is an opportunity to make an impact by investing in areas that will save money over time and reserve valuable taxpayer dollars for preventative, upstream investments that improve health and racial equity outcomes for residents.

Thank you for your ideas, and for your well wishes as we embark on this process.



IMPACT 2-1-1 is a central access point for people in need. During times of personal crisis or community disaster, the free, confidential helpline and online resource directory make it easy for residents to get connected to information and assistance. **Simply dial 2-1-1.** If you want detailed information please go to: [www.impactinc.org/impact-2-1-1](https://www.impactinc.org/impact-2-1-1).

## Join a Milwaukee County Parks "Friends" Group

Looking for a way to get outside, get active and get involved with your neighbors in something meaningful? Join a County Parks "friends" group! Many of the programs, events and projects in Milwaukee County parks are made possible through the efforts of park "friends" groups. These non-profit groups volunteer their time on a range of activities – from hosting summer concerts and fundraising to weeding and presenting educational programs. To learn more, visit [County.Milwaukee.gov/Parks](https://County.Milwaukee.gov/Parks).



*This spring, our family joined 3,000+ other volunteers for Milwaukee Riverkeeper's 26th Annual Spring Cleanup.*

## GOT ISSUES?



Let us know at  
[countyparksmke.com/issues](https://countyparksmke.com/issues)  
a new way to report issues in parks and trails

Get up-to-date information on FREE Milwaukee County Attractions at:



[county.milwaukee.gov/freedays](https://county.milwaukee.gov/freedays)



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## Pushing For Innovation and Accountability

As a county supervisor, I spend a lot of my energy thinking about our county's systems and seeking ways to make things work faster, better or more efficiently. This is my passion: good governance. Here are a few recent examples:

### Virtual Court Can Make Our County Safer and Stronger

During the pandemic, many of the county's courts shifted to virtual – and when they did, we learned a few things. We discovered that most non-jury court proceedings could be conducted virtually without meaningfully impacting the outcomes. We also discovered that you don't need sheriff deputies to serve as court bailiffs in virtual court – because no one is in physical danger. That means these deputies could be redeployed in other ways, keeping our community safe – or we could repurpose that funding for other strategic purposes.

I'm working with Chief Judge Triggiano, members of the Sheriff's office and others to see what efficiencies and service improvements we can deliver without impacting the credibility or the accessibility of our judicial system.

### A Plan to Restore Our County Pools and Events

In 2020 and 2021, many of the county's pools were closed due to the pandemic, staffing shortages and insufficient funding. Also, many annual events like the Independence Day fireworks, the Milwaukee Air & Water Show and others were canceled due to Parks Department staffing shortages. These cancellations impacted our quality of life and created over-crowding at the pools and events that remained open.

That's why I sponsored a resolution calling on the County Parks Department to develop a comprehensive plan to re-open our pools and restore these community events in 2022.

## A Few Photos From 2021



(Photo on the left) I was honored to mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and participate in a wreath-laying ceremony alongside leaders of law enforcement, firefighters, veterans and first responders. (Upper-right) My family helped create a "Field of Flags" at the War Memorial Center honoring 7,000+ soldiers we've lost since 9/11. (Lower-right) I was grateful to attend a beam signing ceremony for the new Milwaukee County Emergency Mental Health Center slated to open next year.